

**DATES TO REMEMBER:**

**TUES. NOVEMBER 2**  
Teacher Plan Day  
**NO SCHOOL**

**WED. NOVEMBER 3**  
PTA Meeting  
Resource Center  
9:00 a.m.

**FRI. NOVEMBER 5**  
Reflections Deadline

**SUN. NOVEMBER 7**  
Daylight Savings Time  
Ends — Turn Clocks  
Back

**FRI. NOVEMBER 19**  
Report Cards Issued  
(Grades 1-6)

**NOVEMBER 22-23**  
Parent Teacher  
Conferences  
**NO SCHOOL**

**WED. NOVEMBER 24**  
Student Non-  
Attendance Day

**NOVEMBER 25-26**  
Thanksgiving Recess  
**NO SCHOOL**

**WED. DECEMBER 1**  
PTA Meeting  
Resource Center  
9:00 a.m.

**Marion Jordan School**  
100 North Harrison St.  
Palatine, IL 60067  
Office: 847-991-5500  
Absentee: 847-963-5501

**Principal**  
Dana Petersen

**Assistant Principal**  
David Kerkemeyer

**PTA Co-President**  
Mary Kay Aronson

**PTA Co-President**  
Alison Silver

**Editor**  
Beth Anderson  
luddyandbeth@yahoo.com



# Jordanaire



NOVEMBER 2010

## Attitude of Gratitude

The halls of Marion Jordan were quite a “Spook-tacular” sight for the Annual Halloween Parade and Room Parties. The kids looked festive in their costumes and, as usual, so did the MJ staff. In keeping with Marion Jordan tradition, the Room Parents also did a great job on the parties. The children look so forward to this event every year and I’m sure all had a great time.

Many MJ PTA volunteers have been diligently at work preparing some of the most popular PTA events of the year!

MJ children and parents enjoyed Dads & Donuts again, thanks to the efforts of Andrea Goedken and Marie Kuechel. The annual Halloween parade was hauntingly amusing, and as usual, the room parents brewed up some treats and entertainment for the children! The book fair team, Alison Silver, Kelly Reynolds, Gina Stavrou and Bernadette Konopka, launched our annual book fair with the theme, Here’s to Our Heroes, celebrating everyday heroes with a colorful display in the resource center for all to enjoy

while browsing the tables of wonderful books. And let’s not forget Doug Jayes and Dave Hotchner who served stacks of pancakes at our annual Pancake Breakfast! Last but not least, the Mini Courses committee is busy preparing indoor fun for our children during the upcoming cold-weather months! Check your child’s backpack and/or MJPTA.org for sign up forms during the months of December and January.

*Continued on Page 2*

## Principal’s Note

The leaves are changing, the air is crisp and refreshing. We have settled into the routine of the school year at my house. I have recently found that I have begun to expect more from my two oldest children. I find myself on many occasions treating them more and more as young adults. Both get up in the morning and prepare for school independently. My 13-year-old babysits for her brothers, and neighbors as

well. Both can make basic meals, including macaroni and cheese and pizza, which require the stove/oven. Just as I start to feel confident in their abilities, one of them will do something that reminds me all too quickly that despite the numbers that represent their ages, they are still children. Take for instance six months ago when my daughter, who had been pleading her case for a cell phone for some time, says to me at Woodfield Mall,

“Mom, situations like this are the perfect reason I NEED a cell phone. If I got separated from you, I’d be able to call you and we could find each other.” After my quick, conversation ending statement of, “there are plenty of ways to reunite at the mall without a cell phone,” I got to thinking and followed up by asking what she really would do if we became separated and she

*Continued on Page 3*

## Attitude of Gratitude *(continued from Page 1)*

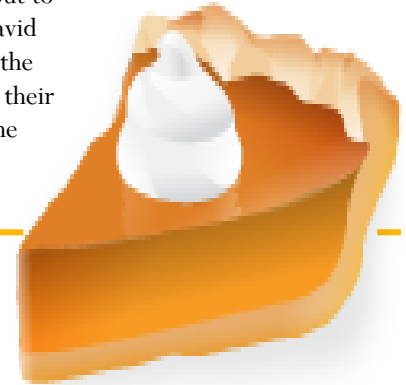
As our thoughts turn to Thanksgiving, it is fitting that we extend a collective "thank you" to all the parents and volunteers who help our PTA and our school both behind the scenes and at center stage! We'd like to express our "attitude of gratitude" to everyone who offers financial support to our PTA throughout the year. We rely on your generosity to help us to fund and follow

through with the enrichments, activities, and family events we offer the children at MJ. Every contribution, be it time or dollars, counts! We simply couldn't do it without your support!

Special thanks also go out to Jennifer Grosch and David Kerkemeyer as well as the MJ faculty and staff for their continued support of the PTA and its endeavors.

In closing, Alison and I would like to wish all of you a safe and happy Thanksgiving holiday.

Mary Kay Aronson  
Alison Silver  
MJ PTA Co-Presidents



We will be  
collecting loose  
change  
donations for  
Pennies for Pies  
November 1-12

## Pennies for Pies

This November, the PTA Market Day Committee will once again be participating in Pennies for Pies. This is a great opportunity to help out local charities during the Thanksgiving holiday and also raise funds for the PTA.

Beginning Monday, November 1 until Friday, November 12, we will be collect-

ing donations of loose change from each classroom. All money collected will be used to buy Market Day Pies for local charities such as the Palatine Township Food Pantry and PADS. Market Day will then contribute a portion of the proceeds to the Marion Jordan PTA. There will be prizes for the class that collects the

most money.

We hope you will help support this fun and worthwhile program. If you have any questions about Pennies for Pies, or would like to volunteer to help, please contact our Market Day Chair, Jeff Perkins at 847-991-9513 or [perkins11@comcast.net](mailto:perkins11@comcast.net).

## Spirit Wear Sale Nov. 8-28

What better way to show your pride for MJ than spirit wear! MJ will be hosting Spirit Day once a month where students can celebrate their school in true MJ fashion.

There is a wide variety of MJ Spirit Wear now available: shorts, pants, t-shirts,

sweatshirts, fleece and headwear. And, it's easier than ever to order! Go to the Marion Jordan PTA website and click on the link, or you can go directly to the website [www.nicholsdesigns.com/marionjordan](http://www.nicholsdesigns.com/marionjordan) to place

your order. All orders are placed on-line.

**Spirit Wear can be ordered from November 8, 2010 through November 28, 2010.** MJ Spirit Wear is a great Christmas gift, too!

If you have any questions, please contact Mary Kating at 847-359-7314 or [jekmtk@aol.com](mailto:jekmtk@aol.com).

## Principal's Note *(continued from Page 1)*

could not find me. Her answer stopped me in my tracks. She replied, "I'd just start at Macy's and go into every store until I found you." The truth is, kids brains work differently from that of the fully developed adult brain. As much as their physical beings change, they have less life experience and, therefore, less ability to think through and problem solve as skillfully as adults do. Below are some guidelines for nurturing good problem solving skills in children.

**Ensure health, safety, and good nutrition:** School aged children need three balanced meals each day along with some healthy snacks in between. Hydration is important as well. Kids require 10 to 12 hours of sleep per night. Set the dinner table and the bed time routine.

**Model problem solving:** Allow children to make independent decisions and support them when things don't go as planned. Weigh pros and cons, take time to talk through various solutions to situations as they

arise. Problem solving is not automatic, it is a refined skill.

**Recognize that each child is unique:** Children grow and develop at their own pace. That pace varies from child to child. Minimize comparisons of one child to another.

**Provide opportunities for play as well as downtime:** Kids need time to be kids. With all of the scheduled events such as school/sports/social opportunities, kids feel more stress today than ever before.

**Use discipline to teach:** Be your child's parent, not their friend. Talk to your child about their feelings. Encourage them to trust their inner feelings. Set rules and boundaries, follow through with consequences. Make it clear that while you might not like a particular behavior, you love them. Point out how their choices affect others.

**Limit screens and plugs:** Limit not only the time children spend watching TV, using the computer, or playing electronic

games, but watch for the content as well. Is what they are exposed to in line with your family values?

**Be a positive role model:** Remember that kids will be more likely to do as you do, not as you say. (Do keep saying it too, though.)

**Know your child's friends and the families of those friends:** You know what you are comfortable with in terms of supervision in your home. Ask the necessary questions so you can feel comfortable and confident that the time they spend away from home is time well spent.

Such guidelines are not fool-proof, but they can go a long way in promoting good decision making skills. As for the phone, we did eventually get her one, but not before she could come up with three solutions to being reunited without the use of a cell phone.

Jenny Grosch  
Interim Principal

**Children  
have less life  
experience,  
and  
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to think  
through and  
problem  
solve as  
skillfully as  
adults do.**



### Attention Current Fifth Graders . . . Get Your Physical Now!

Beat the rush! It's not too early to get your sixth grade physical NOW. All children entering kindergarten and sixth grade are required to have a physical that is *less than* one year old. Therefore, any time *after* September 1, 2010 is acceptable. If you have any questions, please contact Mary Ellen Toriumi, School Nurse.

We are now accepting donations of lightly used or new outerwear to help keep families in need warm this winter.

## Coat Closet is Open!

We need your donations today to help needy families in the area stay warm this winter season. The Marion Jordan families have always been very generous with their donations to the Coat Closet and I am sure this year will be no exception.

The Coat Closet accepts new or lightly used outer-

wear only — including coats, gloves or mittens, hats, snow pants, scarves and boots. The sizes range from toddler to adult. Donations can be dropped off at Marion Jordan. If you are donating several items, we would appreciate it if you would put them in a trash bag to help with transport.

If you are a family in need of outerwear from the Coat Closet this winter, please contact our school nurse, Mary Ellen Toriumi at 847-991-5502 or our school social worker, Laura Wald at 847-991-5544. Thank you and stay warm!

Susie Rogers  
Health and Safety

## Transitioning Presentation Nov. 15

On Monday, November 15 Walter R. Sundling Junior High, Palatine High School and Rolling Meadows High School will be conducting a presentation for parents of special needs children on transitioning to another school.

For most of our kids, transition can be difficult, especially when they are changing to new schools with new

special education teams. The transition teams will discuss what's involved in the transition and try to answer your specific questions about how to make it successful and exciting for your child. Rooms will be set aside to help parents who have transitioning students to either the junior high or high school. **Please be aware that the transition meetings are of-**

**fered every other year.**

The meeting is at Walter Sundling Junior High from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. If you have any questions about SPARK or this transition meeting, please feel free to contact Ani Erickson at 847-907-4732.

Ani Erickson  
SPARK Committee

## Don't Forget to Vote!

Be sure to vote in the General Election on Tuesday, November 2nd. Voters can check their registration status at [www.voterinfonet.com](http://www.voterinfonet.com) (Cook County Clerk's website).

The Bylaws Committee is

also in need of one more volunteer. Please contact Michelle Beckmeier at [mbeckeme2002@yahoo.com](mailto:mbeckeme2002@yahoo.com) if you are interested. I will be attending a class for Bylaw revisions on Wednesday, November 3rd and we will hold our first meeting

in the second week of November.

Michelle Beckmeier  
1st VP of Legislation



# Tips for a Successful Parent-Teacher Conference

Parent-Teacher Conferences will take place at Marion Jordan November 23 and 24. When the time comes for a parent-teacher conference, some parents wonder what they should talk about. With the right preparation, parents will get more out of the conference and gain a better understanding of what they can do to help their child succeed.

Since the teacher has limited time, parents should plan on covering only a few topics during the conference. Following are some questions parents may

consider asking about their child:

- What is my child like during the day? Does he/she participate in class discussions/activities?
- What are my child's best/worst subjects? How can I help him/her improve in the areas they need work?
- What are the standards for my child's grade level?
- How does my child interact

with other children and adults?

- How much help should I provide on homework assignments?
- How is student progress measured?
- Is my child trying as hard as he/she can?

Keeping in touch with the teacher, even if things are going well, will undoubtedly benefit a child's school experience.



## Birthday Book Club

We are very thankful to all of those who have already donated to the Birthday Book Club! If your birthday is coming up, keep an eye out for the donation form to be coming home in your backpack!

Thank you and Happy Birthday to the following Blue Jays:

July 8 Jillian M.  
July 11 Macy B.  
July 16 Kotone N.  
July 23 Takuro O.

July 28 Amruta H.  
Ivan M.  
Aug. 7 Cameron D.  
Connor D.  
Aug. 10 Charles S.  
Aug. 23 Cynthia Celina G.  
Alexandra L.  
Jacob L.  
Aug. 27 Sean E.  
Aug. 31 Sarah G.  
Sept. 1 Max B.  
Sept. 4 Nicole A.  
Sept. 13 Rahul K.

Sept. 16 Matthew P.  
Sept. 24 Andrew K.  
Oct. 1 Ethan M.  
Oct. 2 Mia J.  
Emily P.  
Oct. 7 Robert R.  
Oct. 12 Ethan K.  
Oct. 16 Yuka I.  
Oct. 19 Meriem B.  
Oct. 24 Kiera W.  
Oct. 29 Jessica G.  
Myles M.  
Oct. 31 Nicholas H.  
Yash W.



### *Just in Time for the Holidays!*

*Looking for that perfect gift for your child's teacher? Did you know that you can find a Staff Information / Wish List on the Marion Jordan PTA Website? It includes information about our wonderful staff's birthdays, favorite treats and classroom wish lists! You can find it under the Documents Tab. Kudos to Karen Roiland for helping us gather this information!*



# Mini-Course Volunteers Needed!

Thank you to everyone that has already volunteered for mini-courses. It looks like we are well on our way to another fun and successful 2011 course schedule. Our plan is to offer the most popular courses from last year more often so everyone can participate, but we need your help.

For those of you who are new to mini-courses, the PTA hosts voluntary 40-minute classes during recess when the weather is too cold to go outside. It gives the children an opportunity to learn something new or participate in an old favorite.

Please call Kathy Menis at (847)991-3282 or Debbie Cox at (847)202-8066 if you would like to volunteer your time to do something the children look forward to every year.



## Parent Education

This month's Parent Education article is a summary of the program sponsored by the Northwest Suburban Council PTA and presented by the District 15 Department of Instruction on the topic of "Homework Motivation and Tips for Parents to Support a Successful Year for their Children".

The instructors offered valuable tips for developing good study and homework habits. They also provided a great deal of information about ways we can use the internet for educational support at home. At the end of this Jordanaire we have attached a summary of the program including a

number of websites and other internet resources to help you on your journey along the homework highway.

Parent Education  
Committee



## Fremd Craft Fair Dec. 11

Mark your calendar for the Fremd Holiday Craft Fair on Saturday, December 11 from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Fremd High School.

Crafters will be featuring a wide variety of items from holiday specialties such as decorations, wreaths, and clothing, to gift items such as jewelry, candles and art work. Many fun food items will also be available includ-

ing almond flavored toffee, homemade spaghetti sauce, focaccia bread, gourmet pizza and gourmet dips. Beautiful gift items such as purses and pottery will also be for sale. Crafters will also be featuring home décor including unique tables, chairs and accessories.

Spend a few hours shopping with friends and family for those last minute holiday

gifts! There is no admission charge, parking is free, and there is a concession stand for a quick breakfast or lunch.

The Craft Fair is organized by the Fremd Booster Club. All proceeds are used to benefit Fremd students.

# Kudos

Corner



Kudos to all those who helped make the Blue Jay Shuffle a run-away success: **Rita Patel, Claire Miller, Elizabeth Park, Cyndi Ginsburg, Min Goodwin,Carolynn Burk, Karen Reany, Liz Pusch, Meena Hegde, Sandy Mitchell, Andrew Violette, Jane Lloyd, Cyndi Payne, Kim Ault, Maria Tzioufas, Deb Rudman, Kathryn Beligratis, Tara Schroeder, Sheri Liang Zhou, Juanita Phillips, Robin Murauskis, Molly Plizga and Jeff Perkins.** Thanks also to **Linda Seitz** and **Sarah Borkowski** for snapping pictures for the yearbook. And, as always, we couldn't have done it without the support of several staff members: **Donna Divello, Karen Roiland, Mr. Duffy, Mr. Normann, Mrs. Gan-**

**galoo and Mrs. Toriumi.**

Thanks to **Andrea Goedken** and **Marie Kuechel** for organizing and hosting a fabulous Dads & Donuts event. Thanks to all the Moms who helped assist including **Liz Pusch, Gina Stavrou, Marlo Messner, Min Goodwin, Julie O'Hara, Robin Murauskis, Nidhi Bansal** and **Julie Pope.**

Thank you **Jeff Perkins** for your outstanding effort in starting up our Market Day program this year! We'd also like to thank all the volunteers who helped on our first sale date. We appreciate you!

To **Susan Erickson** and **Karla Nora,** kudos for another successful Waste free lunch

Wednesday!

To our Book Fair Committee, **Alison Silver, Kelly Reynolds, Gina Stavrou** and **Bernadette Konopka,** thank you for another successful fair. And a big thank you to all the cheerful book fair helpers — you are all heroes!

A big thank you to all our wonderful room parents who planned happenin' Halloween parties!

To **Doug Jayes** and **Dave Hotchner** for slaving over the skillet and hosting a tasty Pancake Breakfast. And a high five for all the Dads who lent a helping hand.

## ***MANNA Makes Holiday Shopping Easy!***

Hosting Thanksgiving? Don't forget that you can use MANNA Cards to buy groceries for the big day! MANNA cards also make the perfect holiday gift. Place an order in November or December and see for yourself how convenient the MANNA program is! Upcoming order dates are as follows:

### ORDER DUE

Friday, November 5  
Friday, November 12  
Friday, December 3  
Friday, December 10

### DELIVERY DATE

Tuesday, November 9  
Tuesday, November 16  
Wednesday, December 8  
Wednesday, December 15

Order forms are available on the PTA Website. Click on Fundraising , then MANNA to download an order form. Forms are also available in the office.

# “Homework Motivation and Tips for Parents to Support a Successful Year for their Children”

A free program presented by the Northwest Suburban Council PTA and  
District 15 Department of Instruction

## **Presenters:**

**Mary Zarr, Assist. Superintendent for Curriculum, Special Svcs & School Improvement**

**Paul Budin, District Social Worker**

**Cindy Wong, School Social Worker**

**Kathy Pluymert, District PBIS/RTI Coordinator**

## **Quick Tips for Success**

- Designate a time and place to do homework.
- Provide needed materials and make them readily accessible.
- Set expectations as a family.
- Take an interest in your child’s assignments
- Be available to help and answer questions.
- Have children assist each other to reinforce concepts.
- Expect and accept variances in each child’s abilities.
- Consider homework each child’s private business. Don’t discuss concerns in front of others.
- Give them a break.
- Provide praise and reward.
- Review the completed assignment. See if they can find and correct any mistakes.
- Know where to turn for additional help.

## **Homework Headaches**

Some typical struggles that we as parents face with children and homework:

- ⇒ Sally is a procrastinator, she puts everything off until the last minute and then it’s a crisis...
- ⇒ George brings home the wrong books (or no books), doesn’t know what his homework is, or says he doesn’t have any. The teacher calls and says he doesn’t do any of the homework assigned...
- ⇒ Charlie doesn’t understand the homework that is assigned...

## **General Principles to Remember**

- Students who struggle with homework need increased structure and feedback from you while learning new study and homework habits.
- Be patient, it takes at least 4-6 weeks to establish new habits.
- Expect fluctuation in your child's ability to apply new skills as there are changes in:
  - classroom expectations
  - extra curricular activities
  - family patterns or schedules

## **Prompting Procrastinators: Getting Started and Developing Stamina**

- Break homework into smaller parts or sections that can be completed in 10-15 minutes, depending on the age of your child.
- Do the harder or least favorite tasks first.
- Take a short break, or celebrate small victories when each job is done.
- Use a timer or digital clock to structure work and break times.

## **Organizing**

- Have a regular communication system between home and school to ensure everyone knows what has to be done and when.
- Home and school share responsibility to check in and check out every day to be sure student has all needed materials, books and assignment sheet or notebook (included signed notebook).
- Develop a predictable pattern and places for “stuff” – A disorganized child will undo this in a matter of minutes, but it helps parents cope until the student develops some skill. Don't give up.
- Reward small victories and gradually release responsibility. Remember, if this is a pattern for the child across settings, this will fluctuate over time...it's rarely learned and “done”.

## **Supporting a Struggling Learner**

- Homework is designed to be independent practice of skills already learned, not to learn new ones...
- If your child does not seem to understand homework, try these steps:
  - Work with your child to check to see if he needs to be reassured or really does not understand
  - Provide some guidance to see if a little extra support helps
- If your child is not understanding on more than a few isolated homework assignments, please contact the teacher to arrange for a meeting. Together you can discuss additional support he or she may need at school.

## How Technology Can Help

Presenter: Nadine Norris, District Instructional Technology Coordinator

Technology has opened doors for a vast amount of information. As much as we think children are tech savvy, they need some guidance and structure when using the Internet to gather information. Here are a few tips to help:

- Engagement is important - be a co-learner with your student
- Avoid "turning them loose" to find information or resources on their own
- Have an action plan for your time online - know what you need and where to find it
- Skill practice games can be fun but follow up with your student when they are "playing" to make sure they are actually practicing and not just surfing the games
- Remember to stay safe and use good manners
- Take advantage of safe search features:
  - ⇒ Google – you can find instruction on how to set this up at ([www.google.com/support/websearch/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=510](http://www.google.com/support/websearch/bin/answer.py?hl=en&answer=510)) and
  - ⇒ YouTube – a video explaining this feature can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMAj5PMzvsk&feature=player\\_embedded#%21](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GMAj5PMzvsk&feature=player_embedded#%21))

## Internet Resources/Tools by Subject Area

### Literacy

If your child is required to read or wants to read a book that is above his or her independent reading/comprehension level, use **iTunes.com** or **Audible.com** to download the audio book. You can also find a large selection of audio book titles at the public library. This recommendation is to support your child's reading – not take the place of it. They still need to have their eyes on the print as they follow along.

### Resources for Language Arts

- [www.harcourtschool.com/menus/reading.html](http://www.harcourtschool.com/menus/reading.html) - Storytown - Activities that go along with our Harcourt Reading series, Trophies
- [www.tumblebooks.com](http://www.tumblebooks.com) – An online read-along collection accessible to all District 15 students - login is **marionjordan**, password is **books**
- [www.farr-integratingit.net/Theory/RecipesForWriting](http://www.farr-integratingit.net/Theory/RecipesForWriting)
- [www.spellingcity.com](http://www.spellingcity.com)

## **Graphic Organizers for Pre-writing and Reading Comprehension**

- Houghton Mifflin Resources Grades 3-5 - [www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/k\\_5/graphorg](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/k_5/graphorg)
- Houghton Mifflin Resources Grades 6-8 - [www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6\\_8/graphorg](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme/6_8/graphorg)
- Education Place Graphic Organizers – [www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer](http://www.eduplace.com/graphicorganizer)

## **Practice Grammar**

- [www.grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar](http://www.grammar.ccc.commnet.edu/grammar) - Capital Community College Guide to Grammar and Writing
- [www.funbrain.com/funbrain/grammar](http://www.funbrain.com/funbrain/grammar) - Grammar Gorillas
- [www.kwarp.com/portfolio/grammarninja.html](http://www.kwarp.com/portfolio/grammarninja.html) - Grammar Ninja
- [www.eduplace.com/kids/hme](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hme) - Houghton Mifflin English K-5

## **Math**

Lots of parents are confused by new teaching strategies for problem solving and learning basic skills like multiplication tables. The first place you can go for a quick tutorial video on just about any subject is [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/) (with Safe Search turned on of course).

Here are some specific places where you can find tutorial videos:

- [www.school.discoveryeducation.com/homeworkhelp](http://www.school.discoveryeducation.com/homeworkhelp) - Discovery Education Math Homework Help – videos and tutorials explaining basic operations and skill mastery
- [www.khanacademy.org](http://www.khanacademy.org) – almost 2000 video tutorials

## **Math Skills Practice**

TIP: make an "exit slip" for your student with number of problems/score so your child is accountable for what they are practicing on the sites and you know they are not just "surfing" the sites.

- BBC Math, math for K-2 - [www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/maths](http://www.bbc.co.uk/schools/ks2bitesize/maths)
- Internet 4 Classrooms - [www.internet4classrooms.com/math\\_elem\\_index.htm](http://www.internet4classrooms.com/math_elem_index.htm)
- XP Math - [www.xpmath.com](http://www.xpmath.com) – games and math resources
- Math-A-Rama - [www.eduplace.com/kids/hmm](http://www.eduplace.com/kids/hmm) - online math games for kids from Houghton Mifflin to support our Houghton Mifflin Math textbooks
- [www.eduplace.com/math/hmm](http://www.eduplace.com/math/hmm) – online information and worksheets to support our Houghton Mifflin Math textbooks
- Arcademic Skill Builders - [www.arcademicskillbuilders.com](http://www.arcademicskillbuilders.com) – games

- AAA Math - [www.aaamath.com](http://www.aaamath.com) – interactive arithmetic lessons
- AAA Math Spanish version - [www.aaamaticas.com](http://www.aaamaticas.com)
- Aplus Math – [www.aplusmath.com](http://www.aplusmath.com) – games and more
- Cool Math – [www.coolmath.com](http://www.coolmath.com) – games and more
- FunBrain - [www.funbrain.com](http://www.funbrain.com) – games and more
- Fractions - [www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources\\_frp/client\\_frp/ks2/maths/fractions](http://www.bgfl.org/bgfl/custom/resources_frp/client_frp/ks2/maths/fractions)

## **Science**

- Eric's Treasure Trove of Astronomy and Planetary Science – also contains some advanced materials - [www.scienceworld.wolfram.com/astronomy](http://www.scienceworld.wolfram.com/astronomy)
- BrainPOP(Science) - [www.brainpop.com/science/seeall](http://www.brainpop.com/science/seeall) - Great science site for the elementary school student
- [www.edheads.org](http://www.edheads.org) - Educational Science Games and Simulations
- Science Fair Projects - [www.tryscience.org](http://www.tryscience.org)
- FOSSweb – interactive science activities - [www.fossweb.com](http://www.fossweb.com)

## **Solar System**

- Solar System Exploration – NASA website – [www.solarsystem.nasa.gov/index.cfm](http://www.solarsystem.nasa.gov/index.cfm)
- Windows to the Universe – from the National Earth Science Teachers Association – also in Spanish - [www.windows2universe.org](http://www.windows2universe.org)

## **Social Studies**

### **Geography**

Download Google Earth ([www.google.com/earth/index.html](http://www.google.com/earth/index.html)) for a fabulous tour of our world! You could also use Google Maps Satellite ([www.maps.google.com](http://www.maps.google.com))

### **Government**

- Ben's Guide to Government – [www.bensguide.gpo.gov](http://www.bensguide.gpo.gov) - Ben's Guide provides information and activities specifically tailored for educators, parents, and students in K-12. These resources can help teach about our government and how it works.  
Kids portal from U.S. Government – [www.kids.gov](http://www.kids.gov)
- CIA World Factbook - [www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html](http://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/index.html)

## **Research**

- [www.ask.com](http://www.ask.com) – will narrow or expand your search
- For younger students, try Ask for Kids at [www.askkids.com](http://www.askkids.com) or Factmonster at [www.factmonster.com](http://www.factmonster.com) – a kid's encyclopedia and search engine
- Answers.com – [www.answers.com](http://www.answers.com) – Online Dictionary, Encyclopedia and much more. All results are reference resources.
- Yahoo Search – [www.yahoo.com](http://www.yahoo.com) - Uses proximity and frequency of search words to find results. Also, check out the short cuts.
- RefSeek.com – [www.refseek.com](http://www.refseek.com) - This search engine drills down to offer results that are strictly reference resources.